RULES AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT, SESSION 1861.

CONFIRMED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, JULY 31, 1861.

HALIFAX, N. S.
PRINTED BY JAMES BOWES AND SONS,
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MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

It is universally admitted that "*Union is Strength.*" The Medical Profession in this Province, although numerous, are at present powerless to effect any great or important reform for their mutual benefit; hence it becomes imperative on every member to co-operate with his brethren to exalt his profession above the standard of Empiricism and Quackery.

To accomplish this desirable object, we, whose names are annexed, do hereby form ourselves into an association, and pledge ourselves to each other to observe and be guided by the following By-laws, and such other Rules as may from time to time be adopted.

RULES.

Rule I.—*Name and Objects.*—This association shall be designated the "Medical Society of Nova Scotia," and its objects shall be the advancement of Medical Science, the discussion of all subjects pertaining to the profession, and the protection of the rights of its members.

II.—*Members.*—All legally qualified regular practitioners in Medicine and Surgery, shall be eligible as members of this Society.

III.—*Officers.*—The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, to serve one year each; and a Managing Committee (or Council of Nine), one of which shall be the Secretary.

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IV.—*Duty of Officers.*—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society,—enforce a strict observance of the Rules and By-laws,—call special meetings,—sign all orders for monies to be paid by the Treasurer, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him

V.—The Vice-President shall render such assistance as the President may require of him; and in the absence of the President the Vice-President shall perform his duties.

VI.—The Secretary shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the Society, and of the Council; shall prepare ballots at the election of officers; shall notify members of all meetings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.

VII.—The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to all the business of the Society external to the city and Dartmouth; have charge of all letters and communications transmitted to the Society; prepare answers to correspondents according to instructions; and furnish, within a fortnight preceding the annual meeting, to the Treasurer a correct list of all who have become members of the Society in the year preceding, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.

VIII.—*Interchange of Duties of Secretary.*—Should either of the Secretaries be absent from any meeting of the Society, the other shall perform the services of both, as far as may be, for the time being.

IX.—The Treasurer shall demand and receive all monies due to the Society, and keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures; shall (when in funds) pay all orders drawn on him by the Society, when signed by the President and Secretary. He shall make an annual statement to the Society of the appropriation of its funds, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.

X.—The Council (or Managing Committee) shall examine the qualifications of all new candidates for membership; shall adjudicate upon all disputed questions of a professional nature, and perform such other duties as a majority at every annual meeting may assign to them. The decision of a majority of the Council at any meeting, on any matter brought before them, shall not be considered final until ratified by the Society.

BY-LAWS.

ART. I.—MEETINGS.

SECT. 1.—The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the first Tuesday in January, (not being New Year's Day), from year to year, at such time and place as the Society shall determine.

SECT. 2.—Monthly meetings shall be held on the first Tuesday in every month.

SECT. 3.—Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, upon requisition of three members.

SECT. 4.—Five members (including officers) shall constitute a quorum at any monthly or special meeting; and ten shall form a quorum at any annual meeting of the Society.

SECT. 5.—In the absence of the President and Vice President at any regular or special meeting, the members present shall appoint a Chairman (being a member) to preside during the transaction of business.

SECT. 6.—The President may convene a meeting of Council on the requisition of one or more members of the Society. Five members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of Council.

ART. II.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

SECT. 1.—At the monthly meeting next preceding the annual meeting persons shall be nominated (either *viva voce* or in writing) as office bearers for the ensuing year; and the Secretaries shall transmit the names of those nominated, with voting papers, to all the members of the Society for their election, together with a notice of the annual meeting.

SECT. 2.—Members residing in the country, wishing to vote, may do so by proxy, sending in their votes for the several officers in a sealed envelope, to the Secretary,—said envelope to be marked *proxy*, and not to be opened until the day of the annual meeting.

SECT. 3.—Officers shall be elected annually by ballot,—the presiding officer naming two members present to examine the ballots, and declare the result to the meeting. Parties so elected shall, if present, at once assume the duties of their respective offices; and retiring officers shall, at the same time, hand over to

their successors all monies, books, papers, or other property of the Society.

SECT. 4.—Officers for a previous year having performed their duties faithfully, and paid their subscriptions, in advance, for the ensuing year, shall be eligible for re-election.

SECT. 5.—The members of Council shall be elected annually, in the same manner as that of the other officers.

SECT. 6.—Written ballots shall be used at the election of officers, and it shall require a majority of votes in the ballot box to constitute an election.

SECT. 7.—Should any vacancies occur, the same shall be filled at the first monthly or special meeting, in the manner already described.

ART. III.—ANNUAL DUES.

SECT. 1.—Members resident in Halifax and Dartmouth shall pay two dollars (10s.) at the first, and at every subsequent annual meeting.

SECT. 2.—Members in the various Counties of the Province shall pay one dollar (5s.) at the first, and at every subsequent annual meeting.

SECT. 3.—If any member neglect to pay his dues within six months after the annual meeting, he shall thenceforth forfeit his privilege of membership until the amount shall have been paid.

SECT. 4.—*Assessment.*—Should the funds at any time become exhausted, there shall be made an equal assessment (in the proportion of their annual dues) on each and every member, to meet the necessary expenses of the Society.

ART. IV.—MEMBERS.

SECT. 1.—It shall be compulsory on every person applying for admittance into this Society to have his qualifications registered, according to law, in the Provincial Secretary's office at Halifax.

SECT. 2.—Every person, before he is admitted to membership, shall furnish to one of the Secretaries his name in full, the name of the University or College at which he obtained his Diploma, the date of the Diploma, and the names of the President and Secretary of said University or College, and also the date of registration in the Provincial Secretary's office at Halifax, in order that the same may be entered in the Registration Book of the Society.

SECT. 3.—Any person complying with sects. 1 and 2 of this Article, and whose credentials and moral character shall be approved of by the Society, by paying in advance the regular fee, and by subscribing, either personally or by proxy, to the Rules and By-laws, shall be constituted a member, provided he has not been expelled this or any other Medical Society.

SECT. 4.—The duties of members shall be to observe professional etiquette; to treat every colleague with courtesy and respect, and, if necessary, with forbearance; to submit all disputed questions to the Council of the Society for adjudication; in fine, to endeavor, by all possible means, to promote harmony in the profession, and to suppress the baneful influence of Quackery.

SECT. 5.—Any member wishing to withdraw from the Society shall give notice in writing to that effect to either of the Secretaries.

SECT. 6.—All persons in the general practice of Medicine and Surgery in this Province, who, not being members (except military and naval medical officers), shall practice contrary to the principles of this Society, shall be considered and treated as irregular practitioners.

ART. V.—HONORARY MEMBERS.

SECT. 1.—Any gentleman, eminent in Medicine, Surgery, or the auxiliary sciences, may be elected an honorary member of this Society.

SECT. 2.—Honorary members, when in the Province, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership.

ART. VI.—COUNCIL.

Should any member contravene any of these Rules or By-laws, or be charged with want of courtesy or respect to a brother member, his case shall be submitted to the Council of the Society.

ART. VII.—EXPULSION.

Expulsion of a member shall imply the loss of all the privileges of membership, the erasion of his name from the roll of the Society, and also that he is to be considered and treated as an irregular practitioner.

ART. VIII.

These Rules and By-laws may be amended, or repealed, or any additions may be made thereto by consent of a majority of

members present at an annual meeting of the Society,—notice being given at the monthly meeting next preceding the annual meeting, of the proposed alterations or additions.

BY-LAWS FOR GUIDANCE AT THE MONTHLY OR SPECIAL MEETINGS AT HALIFAX.

ART. IX.—GENERAL BUSINESS.

SECT. 1.—The monthly meetings (special meetings also when called) shall be held for the purpose of transacting business, and also for hearing and discussing essays, and written and oral communications contributed by the members, and connected with the objects of the Society.

SECT. 2.—The business shall commence at 8 o'clock, P. M., and shall be conducted in the following order :—

1. Society constituted.
2. Minutes of preceding meeting read and revised.
3 Report of Council read and discussed.
4. Reports of Committees read and discussed.
5. New motions intimated. and motions intimated at former meeting discussed.
6. New members proposed.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Essays read and discussed, and written and oral communications discussed.
9. Society adjourned.

ART. X.—RESOLUTIONS, VOTING, ETC.

SECT. 1.—Resolutions not relating to the Rules and By-laws may be considered at the monthly meetings,—such Resolutions to be read before the Society at the meeting next preceding that on which they will be discussed. Resolutions relative to subject under debate are excepted, and may be read and considered on the same evening.

SECT. 2.—A copy of every Resolution shall be delivered to the Secretary, with the name of the proposer attached.

SECT. 3.—All disputed questions shall be decided by ballot.

SECT. 4.—No officer or member, personally interested in the subject under debate, relative to his office or membership, shall be entitled to vote upon such matter at any meeting.

SECT. 5.—The President shall vote as a member, and be entitled to a casting vote in cases of equality.

ART. X.—ESSAYS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

SECT. 1.—Any member wishing to read an Essay before the Society, must communicate the subject of his paper to the Secretary four weeks previous to its being read.

SECT. 2.—Short written or oral communications may be brought before the Society at any meeting without previous notice, on the President obtaining the consent of the Society thereto.

SECT. 3.—Essays or Communications, sent from the country by a member to the Society, shall be read by one of the Secretaries, or by a substitute selected by the writer.

SECT. 4.—All Essays and Communications, read before the Society, shall become the property of the Society, and shall be regularly endorsed and filed by the Secretary.

ART. XII.—DISCUSSIONS.

SECT. 1.—The President shall be empowered to prevent any member from speaking more than once on the same subject, until an opportunity of expressing their opinions shall have been afforded to other gentlemen present.

SECT. 2.—The President shall not take part in any discussion without first vacating the chair, and requesting the Vice-President, or, he being absent, any other member present to preside for the time.

ART. XIII.—VISITORS.

SECT. 1.—Every member shall have the privilege of introducing visitors to the meetings of the Society, during the reading and discussion of Essays and Communication.

SECT. 2.—Visitors must be either medical men not members, or gentlemen having a literary or scientific standing in the community or elsewhere.

ART. XIV.

Any of these By-laws for guidance at the monthly or special meetings, may be repealed, amended, or added to at the monthly meetings in April, July, October, or at the annual meeting in January,—a notice of the intended alterations or additions being given at the monthly meeting next preceding any of those named.

P. S.—As one of the principal objects of the "Nova Scotia Medical Society," is the discussion of all subjects pertaining to the profession, members in the country are particularly requested to report all interesting cases occurring in their individual practice, to the Society. Essays on subjects connected with the profession, will also be received with pleasure.—See Article XI, Sections 3 and 4.

It is the intention of the Society (if in funds) to publish, at certain intervals, extracts from their proceedings.

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